

[c]

compasses

the architecture & interior design international magazine | middle east

THE ART[IST]HOUSE

Focus: a quartet of art-houses
Jimmie Durham & Maria Thereza Alves
Giuliano Gori, Luca Pignatelli
Studio M Abboud Malak

INSIDE

Kengo Kuma
Westway Architects
Exclusiva Design
Renata Picone

Italo Rota
Haworth Tompkins
kellerArchitettura
Nicolas Robert





[c] compasses

the architecture & interior design international magazine | middle east

Publisher Board

Marco Ferretti
Francesca Maderna

Scientific Director

Andrea Pane
director@compassesworld.com

Scientific Committee

David Chipperfield
Odile Decq
Massimiliano Fuksas
Hans Ibelings
Farida Kamber Al Awadhi
William Menking
Italo Rota
Livio Sacchi
Yehuda Safran
Khalid Shafar
Karl T. Ulrich

Editorial Staff

Giovanna Russo Krauss
Damiana Treccozi
staff@compassesworld.com

Editorial Board

Paola Ascione
Francesca Capano
Maria Vittoria Capitanucci
Paolo Giardiello
Serkan Gunay
Achraf Ibrahim
Ferruccio Izzo
Laura Lieto
Giovanni Menna
Linda Nubani
Ivan Parati
Gennaro Postiglione
Titti Rinaldi
Saud Sharaf

Art Director

Ferdinando Poverino De Laureto

Team and Publishing Coordinator

Andrea Del Gaudio
media@compassesworld.com

Interiors Consultant

Linda Nubani

Design consultant

Ivan Parati

Correspondents

Brazil Ana Carolina de Souza Bierrenbach
Beatriz Mugayar Kühl
Nivaldo Vieira de Andrade
Massimiliano Campi
China Annamaria Giangrasso
Emirates Laurence Bassières
France Nicolas Detry
Claudia Tamburro

India

Japan Ingrid Paolletti
Kuwait Matteo Belfiore
Morocco Sikander Khan
New Zealand Laurence Bassières
Palestine Alberto Calderoni
Portugal Cristina Bronzino
Spain Teresa Ferreira
Federico Calabrese
Camilla Mileto
Fernando Vegas

Turkey

UK Serkan Gunay
Pietro Belli
Michele Pasca di Magliano
Randall Mason
Linda Nubani

Text Review

Rania Shalabi
Neal Putt

Photographer

Sharif Nazal
Sandra Zarneshan

Advertising Sales Director

Luca Mallamo

Advertising Sales Agency

Agicom Srl
Viale Caduti in Guerra, 28
00060 Castelnuovo di Porto (RM)
Media & Advertising
Mobile UAE : + 971 567890149
Mobile Italy : + 39 3358225239
Phone Italy + 39 069078285
agicom@agicom.it
Skype: agicom.advertising

SUBSCRIPTIONS

To subscribe please send your contacts
by e-mail to
media@compassesworld.com

Decree of the Court of Naples
n. 58 / 20-12-2016

Cover Image

Courtesy of Studio M,
Abboud Malak
Maha Nasra Edde, 8th Street Studios

Publisher

e.built Srl - Italy
Via Francesco Crispi 19-23
80121 Napoli
phone +39 081 2482298
fax +39 081 661014
mobile +39 335 5889237

Gulf Countries Representative

Build LLC
Souk Al Bahar
Old Town Island Burj Khalifa District
Dubai - UAE

[compasses] is a supporting member of



Compasses n.24 - 2017
Printed in Italy
by Rossi Srl
Nola (Napoli)

March 2017
ISSN NUMBER: 2409-3823

The publishers regret that they cannot accept liability for error or omissions contained in this publication, however caused. The opinions and views contained in this publication are not necessarily those of the publishers. Readers are advised to seek specialist advice before acting on information contained in this publication, which is provided for general use and may not be appropriate for the reader's particular circumstances. The ownership of trademarks is acknowledged. No part of this publication or any part of the contents thereof may be reproduced, stored in retrieval system or transmitted in any form with - out the permission of the publishers in writing.



024 THE ART[IST]HOUSE

[editorial]



22 Looking INSIDE the Art[ist]House - Andrea Pane

[essays]



25 Everyday beauty and self-portrait. Art Nouveau and architects' houses - Fabio Mangone
30 Art-Architecture 1922-2016. Houses for artists, by artists, with artists - Giovanni Menna
37 Architects' homes as places of cultural integration. Francesco Lenzini interviews Gennaro Postiglione
41 Two houses, two lives, one love - Paolo Giardiello, Marella Santangelo
45 Bardi's fusion: the house as a museum, the museum as a house - A. C. de Souza Bierrenbach, F. Calabrese

[focus]



50 In the belly of the whale: Luca Pignatelli's house-studio in Milan - Maria Vittoria Capitanucci
58 Living and creating in the history: a house-studio in the heart of Naples - Andrea Pane
64 Five points about Giuliano Gori's pioneering site-specific park in Italy - Giacomo "Piraz" Pirazzoli
70 Nothing but Art: Index Tower Penthouse - Damiana Treccozi, support and collaboration of Annamaria Giangrasso

[architecture & plan]



78 Under one roof: the new ArtLab at the EPFL - Matteo Belfiore
86 Everyman Theatre: Liverpool's place for all - Francesca Capano
92 A core of innovation inside a shell of tradition in Viale Monte Grappa - Giovanna Russo Krauss
98 The balance of the sketch beyond the idea: a chalet in St. Moritz - Maurizio Perticarini

[experiences]



106 Karma Chameleon in Dubai: t[o]ned to the rhythm - Damiana Treccozi
112 A jewel set in Nature: Villa Baghera in Bali - Consuelo Isabel Astrella

[materials & interiors]



120 Art on the waterfront: living in Naples between past and future - Titti Rinaldi
128 Future in light: Artemide's vision. An interview with Carlotta de Bevilacqua and Ernesto Gismondi - Marco Ferretti, Ivan Parati
134 Tailoring the armchair: the VIP line - Mattia Iovane
138 Stitching words, intertwining hopes: the (r)evolution of crafts - Cristina Bronzino

[smart food]



140 WineOled, a portable divine light - Ferdinando Poverino De Laureto
141 Weapon of must costruction - Ferdinando Poverino De Laureto

Nothing but Art: Index Tower Penthouse

Studio M, Abboud Malak

Work
Index Tower Penthouse
Client
Private
Location
Dubai International
Financial Centre (DIFC), Dubai, UAE
Project Year
2013
Architecture and Design
Studio M, Abboud Malak
Architect
Hisham Samawi, Ayyam Gallery
Project Team
Principal Designer: Abboud Malak
Interior Designer: Ava Monshi
Engineering
Husam Rasoul, RID Dubai
Landscape
Studio M
Size and total area
1,600 m²
Image credits
Maha Nasra Edde, 8th Street Studios

Usually common people choose art pieces according to its colours, style and whether or not it matches their cozy sofa, but what happens when you put together an art expert and art-sensitive architects? The result is something special and unique, between a home and an art gallery.

Set at the top of Foster's Index 80 story tower in the heart of Dubai's Financial Center, a one thousand and six hundred square meters penthouse designed by Studio M. This award winning Interior Design firm was founded in Los Angeles back in 1999 by architect Abboud Malak and has since then embraced a minimalist approach to design. The key words to describe his works are elegance and sobriety, which are then «tailored to clients' needs and desires». So when architect Malak was asked to design this apartment interiors, the challenge was to satisfy his client's only request to have «no colour with exception of art». Thus the purpose was absolutely fulfilled.

The house was therefore conceived as a «museum-like space», both in its solemnity and elegant simplicity. The only colours displayed are the black of some partitions and furnishings, the gray of the fabrics and the overwhelming white of the pavement and most part of the walls. The only bright colours bursting into the steady purity of the interiors are those of the famous artists' paintings and sculptures exhibited, just as the owner had demanded. The most challenging thing perhaps, was managing demolitions within the renovation works, being the triplex penthouse on top of one of Dubai's tallest buildings.

Everything provides an enchanting visual stimulus. The horizontal lines given by the black stripes of the built in lights crossing the ceiling and by the black monochromy-breaking shelves



seem to be fragments of an exploded frame. Though apart from one another, they still succeed in accomplishing their function, embracing the artwork in this “spatial canvas”. Minimalist furnishings in their gray-scale variable colour seem to mediate the harsh contrast of black and white. The latter is the house predominant tone. Just as on a three dimensional artist's palette, the art pieces enrich these plain surfaces making an artwork of them. After all, as the 20th century master Richard Meier has been teaching since his adhesion to the New York Five, «White is the most wonderful colour because

>



within it you can see all the colours of the rainbow. The whiteness of white is never just white; it is almost always transformed by light [...].» Thus in the Index Tower Penthouse, colours “within” the white walls coagulate in the paintings, hence creating a unique and continuous work of art.

In this indistinguishable continuum of “content” and “container” and of shape and function, upstairs and downstairs, outdoors and indoors spaces merge. The stairway finished in charcoal steel is the one steady, unifying central element crossing the whole house in its total height. With its simple design, it stands out of the white surrounding walls becoming itself a piece of valuable design. The house is developed on three levels. On the first one are located the main spaces of the living area with the studio, the kitchen and a double-height gallery. More private spaces as bedrooms, instead, occupy the second level, while the third one is dedicated to leisure. On the 79th level, in fact, there are the recreation room, the music room, the gym and the lap pool with external sunbathing areas. Materials emphasise this ethereal effect with their sheer sobriety. The extra-large size and matte finish of the tiles paving the living area help not





distracting from the contemplation of the exhibit, while the ebonised heavy-brushed oak warms up the atmosphere of the sleeping area. Moreover, charcoal textured metal finishes frame the enchanting panoramic views over the city of Dubai. Balance is maintained throughout the whole house. Every single element has been thoroughly designed and positioned. Custom pieces have been commissioned from top international furniture brands including Antonio Lupi's unique tubs and counters and Minotti's «pure, refined and tactile» angular sofa compositions and carefully selected coffee tables. For what concerns lighting, long black slots on the ceiling hide both air conditioning diffusers and movable Viabizzuno light spots enlightening paintings, sculptures and blank walls at night. At daytime, instead, floor to ceiling windows illuminate the interiors with natural light. The humble, yet never modest, design of the interiors reveres the numerous pieces of art, whereas the nobleness of the materials exalts them. Although making way for art, the house definitely boasts a fascinating elegance and a strong identity. Certainly Index Tower Penthouse is an artwork itself.

*Damiana Treccozzi
(thanks to the support and collaboration
of Annamaria Giangrasso)*

